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IRANIAN BISHOP DENOUNCES CHARGES

LONDON -- The exiled Anglican Bishop of Iran has denounced as "baseless, malicious lies" charges by that country's fundamentalist Islamic regime that Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches were spy centers.

Bishop H.B. Dehqani-Tafti, in exile here after at least one attempt on his life, the murder of his son and the arrest of his secretary, also called for the release of Church officials who have been detained. At least two native Anglican priests are being held as well as an English medical missionary couple and Jean Waddell, the bishop's secretary.

Bishop Dehqani-Tafti denied allegations that his Church had received funds from the American Central Intelligence Agency and that it had plotted to assassinate the Ayatollah Khomeini.

He asserted that any documents produced in support of these allegations would be "crude forgeries, similar to a number which have already been made public." The Revolutionary Guards, source of the latest allegations, were, he said, "not only against the law, but against Islam itself and should not be official government views."

He described the Rev. Iraj Muttahheddah, who has already been arrested and is alleged to have been head of the spy operations, as "a quiet, scholarly man who has been a devoted priest for over 20 years. There is no question of his being involved in spying."

Bishop Dehqani-Tafti further declared that it had always been the goal of his Church to serve the country and its people. This, he said, was best shown by its work in medical care and its care for the blind.

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